



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

July 14, 2014

**Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors**

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

SUBJECT: **DHS AWARDEES OF STATE LOAN REPAYMENT
AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

On March 19, 2013, your Board authorized the use of County funds to provide the required match for loan repayment and scholarship programs. This is to advise your Board that 33 Department of Health Services' (DHS) employees have been awarded loan repayment assistance through the highly competitive State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) Program. Winning these awards assures retention of these valuable employees in DHS and may result in others wishing to join DHS because of the possibility of winning these awards in the future.

Three DHS physicians received the prestigious HPEF-Steven M. Thompson Physician Corp award for physicians serving in underserved areas for a value of \$302,000 for three years. Five DHS employees received the SLRP that required a County match. Twenty-five DHS employees received HPEF awards for various loan repayment programs ranging from Certified Medical Assistant to Physician Assistants, for a value of \$193,876. The total value from SLRP and HPEF is \$648,951 and \$73,000 from County.

This is the first time that DHS has coordinated a system-wide effort for assisting health professionals apply for scholarship and loan repayment programs. The infrastructure for this began two years ago with the establishment of a dedicated group in the Ambulatory Care Network's Research and Innovation Division to increase the number of Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations throughout the County and increase the score in previously designated HPSA areas.

This effort has resulted in the increase of the number of Los Angeles County HPSAs areas from 24 to 35 and an increase in the HPSA scores throughout the County. HPSA designation and scores are important prerequisites for most healthcare scholarship and loan

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 240-8101

Fax: (213) 481-0503

www.dhs.lacounty.gov

*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*



www.dhs.lacounty.gov

repayment programs and a higher score offers applicants a greater chance of being awarded. We have also received commendations from Los Angeles County of Medical Association on our aggressive efforts to enhance and expand HPSA designated areas in the County. Our process to enhance and expand HPSA will also improve recruitment and retention of private providers in HPSA designated areas as private physicians practicing in HPSA designated areas will receive a Medicare bonus payment.

We anticipate these programs will continue to result in an ever-increasing cohort of individuals who benefit from scholarship and loan repayment throughout the County. DHS staff worked diligently to ensure that our qualified healthcare professionals received individual assistance throughout the process. We think this is just the beginning of what's going to be an effective recruitment and retention strategy with outside loan repayment and scholarship support.

The next HPEF filing period is planned for July 2014 and the next SLRP filing period is planned for August 2014. We are preparing new applicants for these application cycles and expect a greater geographic diversity as we recently received notice that HPSA areas in South Los Angeles have significantly increased thanks to efforts by our staff.

Please direct any questions to Alexander Li, MD at (213) 240-8344 and again, our appreciation for your support in our efforts to recruit and retain great DHS staff.

MHK:AL:rm

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors